

The Division has adopted a guiding set of principles to describe how we choose to interact, work with, and relate to not only the customers that we serve but also our own colleagues. Regardless of whether the customer we are serving is an absent parent, a refugee, a county Department of Social Services, or our own co-workers we believe:

Mission: The Division of Social Services is committed to providing family centered services to children and families to achieve well being through ensuring self-sufficiency, support, safety and permanency.

Vision: All programs administered by the Division of Social Services will embrace family centered practice principles and provide services that promote security and safety for all.

Values: The values underlying a family-centered practice approach include:

- Providing services with respect to the individual s family, kin, friend, and community networks
- Acknowledging families as experts in their own situations
- Promoting families generating their own solutions and participating in planning and decision making
- Focusing on strengths
- Promoting both family empowerment and family/service provider accountability
- Respecting diversity
- Engaging and partnering with community, local, and informal supports
- Using the principles of partnerships as a guideline for service provision:
 - ↪ Everyone desires respect
 - ↪ Everyone needs to be heard
 - ↪ Everyone has strengths
 - ↪ Judgments can wait
 - ↪ Partners share power
 - ↪ Partnership is a process